local tea industry.

Delinking of social and human issues from trade policy

702. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE: SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has stressed at the recent annual meeting of the World Economic Forum at Davos, that social and human issues like human rights, child labour and environment should not be made part of trade policy and demanded that such issues be delinked from trade; and

(b) if so, the context in which such a demand was made and the response of the world leaders, particularly the US, thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) This issue came up in a session of the informal gathering of World Economic leaders (IGWEL) in the World Economic Forum meet held at Davos, while discussing the economic scenario in the post Uruguay Round era. The spirit of GAT-93 negotiations was to create a climate of uninterrupted trade flow by removing both tariff and non-tariff barriers. In that context, it was stressed by India that in the area of trade, no extraneous consideration, like human rights, environment, exploitation of labour etc. should be used as non tariff barrier to interrupt free access of goods and services from developing countries to devleoped countries. However, International commitments on these issues should be adhered to an discussed at other appropriate fora.

Threat to enforce quality control regulations of Indian tea

703. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: DR. BAPU KALDATE:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government and the European Community have threatened to enforce quality control regulations on the import of India Tea and in any case of failure to ensure the quality, the Tea Board is requred to share the cost of analysis of the Indian Tea;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what is the existing infrastructure available for checking and licensing only those exports which conform to quality control; and

(d) the measures contemplated by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) European Union has enforced directive of its Council regarding pesticide residues in all Agricultural products including tea. In respect of pesticides & chemicals most commonly used in production of tea in India, maximum residue levels have been stipulated as 0.2 and less mg/kg. In case of Ethion, maximum residual level (MRL) has been fixed at 2 ppm. but in case of Endosulfan the MRL has been fixed at 30 ppm. For the less important chemicals the level have been proposed to be 0.1 to 0.2 ppm. Tea Board has not been asked to shame costs of analysis.

(c) A few laboratories in India are having the facilities for analysing tea samples for residue contents in a limited scale. Tea trade and industry, as and when necessary, get their tea resarch Institute and CSIR Complex, Palampur are in the process of equipping their laboratories for analysing pesticide residue by procuring sophisticated equipments. Shipment licences issued by